(b) whether the pantry car in trains are equipped with the cooking gas cylinders; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the poor vendors on the platform not allowed to have the same alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Standard Meals, Tea/Coffee and Breakfast and a-la-carte items are supplied to the passengers at the rates fixed by Railway Board and IRCTC respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per policy no cooking is permitted on platforms at suburban stations and at other stations cooking is to be progressively reduced and prohibited on stalls and trolleys on the platforms, except for making of tea.

Unhygienic food in Bilaspur Rajdhani Express

†905. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food being served in Bilaspur Rajdhani Express is not prepared at clean place;

(b) whether this matter has been investigated into; and

(c) the efforts made to improve the arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Base kitchens where from the meals are supplied to Bilaspur Rajdhani are ISO (International Organization for Standardization) certified. Regular checks at these Base kitchens and in trains are conducted by the officials of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and zonal railways to ensure that good quality of food is served to the passengers.

Indo-Nepal rail project

†906. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Indo-Nepal rail project;

(b) whether it would be expedited in the changed scenario; and

(c) by when the new target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) For providing Broad Gauge rail connectivity between border towns of India and Nepal, Preliminary Engineering cum Traffic Surveys have been conducted at the following five locations on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.